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12 December 1963

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MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Instability and the Insurgency Threat in
the Dominican Republic

We believe that the security forces of the Dominican Republic will be capable of dealing with subversion and insurgency of the scope likely during the next few months. Over the longer run, however, we expect the danger to increase, perhaps sharply. The leftist leaders will probably be able to expand terrorist activities in urban areas and maintain some type of small guerrilla units in the mountains. This will pose no serious immediate threat but could serve over time as a magnet to attract other political elements (some of them erstwhile moderates) opposed to the regime. The leftist leaders, if they show that they can sustain activist opposition, can almost certainly count on clandestine aid from Castro.

Perhaps their strongest card is the potential threat to the stability of the present government that would be posed by its continued international isolation and domestic unpopularity. It appears doubtful that the civilian triumvirate can maintain power much longer--or will want to try to do so--without foreign and domestic support. The most likely alternatives to the present government appear to be an extreme rightist government or a direct military takeover. In either instance, such a regime would be even less likely to fulfill domestic demands for social and economic reforms. Thus, even with a small guerrilla force, anti-government insurgents could eventually pose a serious threat if the government fails to attract a broader base of support.

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